

Middleletown

Transcript.

VOL. I.

MIDDLELETOWN, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1868.

NO. I.

Select Poetry.

SNOW FLAKES.

Float on, float on,
Ye snow-flakes hovering; down—
All that is fair, and tender, and sweet,
Wrap in your pitless windingsheet,

Under the meadows brown.

'Tis well, 'tis well,
Your brightest wreath to spread,
Where flowers have sunk to the earth in sorrow,
For the blighted hope of a summer morrow,
Over the lovely dead.

Float on, float on,
Under your mantle cold,
Where traitors hope can dream no more,
Where her mocking phantom have fled before.
Oh! that this heart were still!

Forbear, forbear;
Dark spirit thou dost us wrong—
Under our mantle, so soft and warm,
Is shivering safe, each lowliest form,
Though winter's night be long.

Fear not, fear not,
There are bright, bright buds below—
Thou shalt see them again on the green hill-side,
When the silvery mist of summer tide
Is born of the winter's snow.

THE MERRY SLEIGH.

Jingle, jingle, clear it flies,
'Tis the merry, merry sleigh,
As it swiftly speeds along;
Hear the burst of happy song;
See the gleam of glances bright,
Fishing o'er the pathway white;

Jingle, jingle—how it whirs!

Crowded full of pretty girls.

Jingle, jingle—fast it flies,
Shouting she from roughish eyes;
Came the others by the wayside,
Lide heading where they wound—
See them with capricious pranks,
Ploughing now the drifted banks.

Jingle, jingle—mid their glee.

Jingle, jingle—on they flow,
And the faces swimming past—
Nodding through the fleecy blast;
Not a single robe they fold
To protect them from the cold,
Jingle, jingle—mid the storm.

Jingle, jingle, down the hills,
O'er the meadows, past the mists,
Now 'tis slow, now 'tis fast,
Winter will not always last;
Every pleasure has its time,
Spring will come and stop the chime;

Jingle, jingle—clear the way;

'Tis the merry, merry sleigh.

A Beautiful Incident.

THE FAITHFUL WIFE.

In 1793, M. de Tallyrand was in Boston. One day, whilst crossing the market place, he was compelled to stop by a long row of wagons, all loaded with vegetables. The wily courtier, generally so dead to all emotion, could not but look with a kind of pleasure at these and the little waggoners, who, by the by, were young and pretty country women. Suddenly as the vehicles came to a stand, the eye of M. de Tallyrand chance to rest upon one of the young women who appeared more lovely and graceful than the others. An exclamation escaped from his lips. It attracted the attention of the fair one, whose country dress and large hat bespoke daily visits to the market. As she beheld the astonished Tallyrand, whom she recognized immediately, she burst out laughing.

"What! is it you?" exclaimed she.

"Yes, indeed, it is I. But you, what are you doing here?"

"I," said the young woman; "I am waiting for my turn to pass on. I am going to try to sell my greens and vegetables at the market."

At that moment the wagons began to move along, she of the straw hat applied her whip to her horse, told M. de Tallyrand the name of the village where she was living, requested him earnestly to come and see her, disappeared, and left him as if riveted on the spot by the strange appearance.

Who was this young market woman? M. Comtesse de la Tour du Pin, (Mademoiselle de Dillon) the most elegant among the ladies of the court of Louis XVI, King of France, and whose moral and intellectual worth had shone with so dazzling a lustre in the society of her numerous friends and admirers. At the time when the French nobility emigrated, she was young, lively, endowed with the most remarkable talents, and, like all ladies who held a rank in the court, had only time to attend to such duties as belonged to her highly fashionable and courtly life.

"Indeed!" replied she with mirth, "indeed, do you think so? I am delighted to hear it. A woman is always and everywhere proud of her personal attractions."

At that moment the black servant bolted into the drawing-room, holding in his hand his jacket, with a large rent in the back.

"Miss, his jacket torn; please mend him."

She immediately took a needle, repaired Gulch's jacket, and continued the conversation with a charming simplicity.

This little adventure left a deep impression on the mind of M. de Tallyrand, who used to relate it with that tone of voice peculiar to his narrations.

No FULL MOON.—Last February was a month in which there was no full moon, a remarkable fact, but not so rare as some of the Italian journalists would make it, for these authorities asserted that this occurrence could only take place once in 25,000 centuries. A Milanese astronomer who noticed this rash assertion, has just shown that the same thing occurred in 1847, when the moon came full on the morning of January 31st, and next again on the morning of March 2d following. The Scientific American says that in 1828 there was a similar occurrence in this country.

Weather prophesies those sybilline leaves are the forebodings of geese say that the latter part of this winter will be hard, and the first part will be mild.

A lawyer is always strongest when he is best.

A Leaf from History.

History of Railroads and Locomotives.

admiration. Indeed her conduct had always been virtuous and exemplary; but now, in a foreign land and among unsophisticated republicans (1795) what was the use of courtly refinements.

Happy as he was in seeing her escape from all the perils he had dreaded on her own account, still he could but deplore the future lot of the wife of his bosom. However, with the prudent foresight of a good father and a kind husband, he nevered himself against despair, and exerted himself to render their condition less miserable than that of many emigrants who were starving, when the little money they had brought over with them had been exhausted. Not a word of English did he know; but his wife spoke it fluently, and admirably well.

They boarded at Mrs. Muller's, a good natured, notable woman, who, on every occasion, showed the greatest respect and admiration for her fair boarder; yet Monsieur de la Tour du Pin was in constant dread lest the conversation of that good, plain, and well-meaning woman might be the cause of great enmity to his lady. What contrast with the society of such gentlemen as M. de Bourbone, M. de Talleyrand, and the other high-minded and polished nobility of France! Whichever thinking of this transition (particularly when absent from his wife, and tilling the garden of the cottage which they were going to inhabit,) he felt such pangs and heart-throbbings as to make him apprehensive on his return to Mrs. Muller's to meet the looks of his beloved wife, whom he expected to see bathed in tears. Meanwhile the good hostess would give him a hearty shake of the hand, and repeat to him, "happy husband! happy husband!"

At last came the day when the fugitive family left the boarding house of Mrs. Muller to go, to inhabit their little cottage, when they were at last to be exempt from want, with an only servant, a negro, a kind of Jack of all trades, viz: gardener, footman and cook. The last function M. de la Tour du Pin dreaded most of all to see him undertake.

It was almost dinner time. The poor emigrant went into his little garden to gather some fruit, and tarried as long as possible. On his return home his wife was absent; looking for her he entered the kitchen, and saw a young country-woman, who, with her back to the door, was kneading dough; her arms of snowy whiteness were bare to the elbow. M. de la Tour du Pin started, the young woman turned round. It was his beloved wife, who had exchanged her muslin and silk for a country dress, not as for a fancy ball, but to play the part of a real farmer's wife. At the sight of her husband her cheeks crimsoned, and she joined her hands in a suppliant manner. "Oh! my love," said she, "do not laugh at me. I am as expert as Mrs. Muller."

"Dearest," continued she, "if you knew how easy this is. We, in a moment, understand what would cost a country-woman sometimes one or two years. Now we shall be happy—you will no longer be afraid of enmity for me, nor doubts about my abilities, of which I will give you many proofs," said she, looking with a bewitching smile at him. "Come, come, you promised us a salad, and I am going to have to-morrow; the oven is hot. To-day the bread of the town will do—but oh! henceforward leave it to me."

From that moment, Madame de la Tour du Pin kept her word; she insisted on going herself to Boston to sell her vegetables and cream cheeses. It was on such an errand that M. de Tallyrand met her. The day after he went to pay her a visit, and found her in the poultry-yard, surrounded by a host of fowls hungry chickens and pigeons.

She was all that she had promised to be. Besides, her health had been so much benefited, that she seemed less fatigued by the laborious than if she had attended all the balls of the winter. Her beauty, which had been remarkable in the gorgeous palace of Versailles, was dazzling in her cottage in the New World. M. de Tallyrand said she was all that she had promised to be.

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Agricultural Department.

To Prevent Weevil in Wheat.

The following article is of great importance to farmers. We hope that some of them will give the experiment a trial. It appeared first in the *Southern Cultivator*, which is good authority on agricultural matters. That paper says, through one of its correspondents:

"Let wheat be salted, and weevil will never infest it. I have followed this plan from 1834 till now, and have never lost any wheat with weevil after salting it. It is certain this plan to save wheat, that I never sown mine at all. I let it stand in the field in dozens for twelve days, then thresh, fan and salt away. I use half a pound of salt to a bushel of wheat. As it is measured into garners I sprinkle the salt and stir after each measure. If the house be dry wheat is sure to keep well on this plan.

Now, all farmers know that wheat diminishes in bulk as it gets older (*i.e.* not as much nor as good flour as when fresh from the field). This change is prevented by salting. If you examine it eight or ten days after salting, it will be found damp, with dissolved salt on the surface of the grains: but some weeks afterward it will be found dry, having kept cool all the time. The salt enters into the grain and makes the flour satish, but not enough so to interfere with any of its culinary uses. Let us sum up the advantages of this mode of saving wheat:

1. It preserves the wheat with more certainty than sunning.
2. The wheat does not lose in volume or weight by long keeping.
3. It makes more and much better flour.
4. It costs less labor.
5. The wheat is better for seed, because it is preserved in its perfect state. There is not salt enough in it to prevent it from germinating, but there is enough to stimulate it to sprout vigorously.

"I suppose that after all the labor cost in sunning, near one-fourth of the all wheat produced in the valley of the Mississippi is either lost by weevil or badly damaged. This is no small item of loss when the average crop is considered. Were all farmers to salt their wheat, this enormous annual loss would be prevented; and then no one would ever make bread of wheat that quite spoiled enough to give to pigs, and yet too bad for any person to eat. I have seen wheat saved by salting after the weevil were in it."

"In 1836, for want of house room, my wheat was put in hand stacks as it was hauled up to threshing. When about half done threshing, it occurred to me that the weevil might get into it before we should get ready to thresh it; I therefore salted the remaining wheat as it was put in the stacks, and it was fortunate it was done accidentally. Instantly two or three young heroes sprang from their saddles to return to her fair hand—but the awful voice of royalty stayed them. 'Stop, gentlemen!' exclaimed the Queen—"leave it just where it lies. Now my daughter, get down from the carriage and pick up your handkerchief." There was no help for it. The royal footman let down the step for the little, royal lady, who proceeded to lift from the dust the pretty piece of cambric and lace. She blushed a good deal though she tossed her head saucily, and she was doubtless angry enough, but the mortifying lesson may have nipped in the bud her first impulse towards coquetry. It was hard, but it was wholesome. How many American mothers would be equal to such a piece of Spartan discipline?

How the News is Collected.

For some years past the leading journals in the different cities have combined in an arrangement, under the title of the "Associated Press," by means of which through the agency of the magnetic telegraph—the news of the day is interchanged throughout the United States and British Provinces. One day, when the Queen was present in her carriage at military review, the Princess Royal, then rather a wilful girl of thirteen, sitting on the front seat, seemed disposed to be rather familiar and coquettish with some young officers on the escort. Her majesty gave several reproofing looks, without avail—"winked at her, she wouldn't stay winked." At length, in flinging her handkerchief over the side of the carriage, she dropped it—too evidently not accidentally. Instantly two or three young heroes sprang from their saddles to return to her fair hand—

but the awful voice of royalty stayed them. "Stop, gentlemen!" exclaimed the Queen—"leave it just where it lies. Now my daughter, get down from the carriage and pick up your handkerchief."

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The Curio.

The editor of the *Germantown Telegraph*, says:—"We know of no other way to lessen the number of the curiosities than by jarring the trees and catching the rascals in sheets. Removing the limb and striking the stump smartly with a mallet, is a good way of doing the jarring. All the so-called remedies are failures. We have tried everything likely to be effectual and found them to be worthless, and decline to try others daily being discovered, which are on the face of them absurd."

To Prevent Snout in Wheat.

Take one pound of blue oil of vitriol—dissolve it in two or three quarts of boiling hot water, in some earthen vessel. Then put it in a pail and fill with cold water. Now take ten bushels of seed wheat, on the bare floor, and sprinkle this solution all over it, and shovel it thoroughly so that every kernel is wet, and in two or three hours it is ready to sow. You may keep it longer just as well, if you dry it and keep it from heating. This receipt is efficient, but if you have very smutty wheat you may raise a little smut the next year, but none after that.

New Disease in Apple Trees.

The *Gardener's Monthly* speaks of a new disease in apple trees, in the shape of what it calls a new species of cryptogamic fungi, one known to exist on apple trees in the United States before.

To prevent the spread of this disease, the editor says it is only necessary to understand that these parasitic fungi run the same course as other plants, and therefore, if the knot is destroyed before it comes to maturity, it will be prevented from propagating itself. The seat of this fungus is on the ends of the branches.

What is the difference between a baby and coat? One you wear, and the other you wear.

If by the plow would thrive, him self must either hold or drive.

The Middletown Transcript.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1863.

SALUTATORY.

"Once more upon the waters,
Yet once more,
And the waves bound beneath us
Like the horse beneath his rider."

Once more we launch our bark upon the sea of public journalism, and if the experience of years could give skill to the pilot he ought to be able to bear right onward in the channel of duty and public utility, avoiding the rocks and shoals upon either hand. The experienced *voyageur*, however, will not expect to sail over smooth and unruffled seas all the while; he will make his calculations for adverse winds and currents, and for occasional storms and tempests. But he has only to keep his craft well trimmed, and a firm and steady hand upon the helm, to weather them all.

Smile aside: In presenting the TRANSCRIPT to its readers, we resume for the third time a profession to which more than thirty years of the life of the senior has been devoted. It will be expected that in obedience to custom we should map out the course we intend to pursue, and state the principles which will find advocacy in its columns. This will be done briefly, lest we might promise too much and perform too little.

The TRANSCRIPT will aim to take a broad, liberal and comprehensive view of public affairs, upholding the Constitution as the bond of union between the States, and steadily maintaining the principles of a sound Democratic Conservatism. Its columns will be open to a proper discussion of all topics of general interest, its editors holding the sentiment, with Mr. Jefferson, that "error of opinion may safely be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

Special attention will be given to the local wants and necessities of this community. Middletown is situated in the midst of a wealthy and populous region of country, and is the centre of an active and steadily increasing trade. The aid of a local press is needed to develop still further its abundant resources, and to bring more fully into view the Agricultural, Horticultural and Pomological advantages of New Castle County, and the adjacent parts of Delaware and Maryland. It will be our aim to advance these great leading interests, and also to encourage manufacture and the mechanic arts.

The newspaper has become the great necessity of the age. A man may do without many things which taste or habit have made important to his comfort, but his newspaper he must have. It is indispensable; that is, if his mind has attained a sufficient degree of intelligence to crave its regular supply of intellectual pabulum. It keeps him posted up in relation to everything transpiring in the world around him, whether at home or abroad. Its ears are ever open; its eyes are in every place. The thoughts, positions, incidents and movements of individuals and nations, are presented in its columns as in a mirror—the reflex of the opinions and progress of the world. He who reads carefully a well conducted newspaper, is in no danger of falling behind the age. It keeps him alive to all that is new in trade, commerce, politics, morals, literature and art, and enables him to keep pace with the intelligence and progress of the times. It enables him, if he be a shrewd man of business, to open new channels of trade, and thus to secure for himself new sources of profit.

The people of Middletown, and of the populous and wealthy region of which it is the business centre, are not slow to perceive and to appreciate whatever tends to promote their material interests. In this belief we confidently commend the TRANSCRIPT to the favor and patronage of its intelligent and public-spirited citizens, and trust we shall have their hearty co-operation in our efforts to present them with a journal alike useful and creditable to the community in which it is published.

Read the advertisements; they indicate not only the business enterprise of the place in which they are published, but the enterprise of the advertiser also. If you want good bargains always patronize those who avail themselves of the advantage afforded through the advertising columns of their home paper. Indeed, the publication of a well-written original story, by a young lady of Middletown. As every one will want to read it, all who have not entered their names upon our subscription list should do so at once.

On one of our Western railroads, the other day, a sudden jerking of the train threw a little girl, two years old, out of a side door of the car, which had been left open. The horror-stricken parents immediately had the train stopped, and walked back expecting to pick up the mangled remains of the child. The little one met them half way, however, unharmed, and evidently thinking the whole affair a good joke. At the time the child fell off, the train was on a down grade, and running twenty miles an hour.

The employees of the different manufacturers of Norristown, Pa., appear to be fortunate, as it is said to be the only place in the Union in which the factories are running on full time.

Mrs. Nancy Carter, aged 115 years, died at Alexandria, Va., yesterday last.

The Impeachment Fiasco.

The historic page will afford no enviable place to the authors of the scheme to impeach President Johnson. Posterity will view the attempt with abhorrence, when reviewing the flimsy and futile evidence on which it was based. For months this nefarious project hung, like a dark cloud of evil portent upon the political horizon, filling the country with alarm, creating uneasiness and distrust, and arousing fears of anarchy and civil war. But all at once it vanished like the mists of the morning. In a House that had uniformly cast over a two-thirds vote against the President, only fifty-seven affirmative responses could be heard when the question was brought to a vote. *Mirabile dictu!* What was the cause of this? Was it the sunlight of returning reason, dispelling the mists of error, passion and prejudice? Or was it the wholesome influence of the late democratic and conservative victories, achieved at the late fall elections? We leave the reader to answer. In accounting for this most salutary result, perhaps we ought not to overlook the stern note of warning contained in the President's annual message, a warning which he was all too tardy in giving utterance, but which doubtless had its effect in determining the result. We learn that Maj. Jones intends to join his associates in Philadelphia on the occasion:

The Soldiers of 1812.

We see by the Philadelphia papers that the soldiers of 1812, are to meet on the 8th of January at Independence Hall, to celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, as has been their custom for years. Congress seems to have forgotten the services of these old veterans—that they fought and conquered the British upon the sea and upon the lakes; that they whipped the proud armies of Wellington at Fort George, Lundy's Lane, Bridgewater, Plattsburgh, Fort Erie, Stonington, Baltimore, Caulfeild's Field, and divers other places, and finally annihilated them before New Orleans, under the leadership of gallant Old Hickory.

Congress has forgotten that it was these same old veterans, their sons and grandsons, who paid off the Revolutionary war debt, and the debt of the war of 1812, and who have brought the country up to its present position of strength and power, when it may the world in arms.

There are but few of these old veterans left, we understand, in Delaware—Capt. Maxwell, of Delaware City; R. Lockwood, John Jones, and John Thomas, of New Castle county, and one other in Sussex. We learn that Maj. Jones intends to join his associates in Philadelphia on the occasion:

Correspondence of the Middletown Transcript.

BLACKBIRD, Del. Jan. 1, 1863.

Messrs. Editors—Thinking that something from this part of the country would help to fill up the first issue of the Middletown Transcript, I take the liberty of sending you a few lines. The new year opens cold and stormy, which is not surprising, when we consider the appearance of the last day of 1862, which was very cold, and closed with a brisk fall of snow. The people of this hundred are waking up to the importance of improving their land, and I think they have commenced in the right way, viz. by draining. The Messrs. Ferguson and others petitioned the Superior Court of the county, at the November term, for a commission to lay out a public ditch up Blackbird branch, and notwithstanding the cold of yesterday, the industrious and public-spirited gentlemen selected as commissioners, viz. Nathaniel Williams, H. P. Reading and Wm. S. Dekeyne, accompanied by Joseph Roberts, their surveyor, met and commenced operations. I wish them much success, for a great benefit. More anon.

Yours, &c. APPQUINIMINK.

The Presidential Election.

The New York Times (Republican) in commenting upon the probable result of the next Presidential election, uses the following significant language:

As things stand to-day, with universal negro suffrage to be forced upon the Southern States by military power as the condition of their restoration to the Union, and in the uncertain tone and temper of the Republican party on the financial questions before the country, the "prospect" of a Republican defeat is not only "reasonable" but it may be called brilliant. What Congress may do to change it remains to be seen; but if the National Convention takes up the party just where it stands now—if it adopts a Radical platform and nominates a Radical candidate—we venture the prediction that it will be beaten more disastrously than the Whigs were in 1852, or than the Democrats were in 1860. Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and Michigan may vote for a Radical President on a Radical platform; it would be rash to place reliance upon any other Northern or Western States.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—We solicit correspondence from all quarters of this and the adjoining States. While giving special attention to the affairs of our own town and neighborhood, we desire to make the TRANSCRIPT a medium of communication between the different points of this peninsula especially, as well as between the more important points of the adjacent States, whose citizens are engaged in an active commerce with our own.

No attention will be paid to anonymous communications. If the writers of such cannot trust their names with the publishers, neither can they admit their publications to their columns. We have received two anonymous communications this week, which are at the disposal of their writers.

We solicit our friends to send us accounts of all accidents, deaths, marriages, removals, sales of land, accounts of crops, buildings or other improvements; in short, everything that is of local or general interest.

OUR NEWSPAPER HEAD.

The cut which adorns the head of the Transcript represents the Farmer and the Mechanic, with the implements of their calling, while the locomotive and train in the distance, represent commerce, and the business activity of the community in which it is published.

General Grant is now fairly in the organization of capitalists, headed by A. T. Stewart, the great New York merchant, was effected in New York, this week, for the purpose of pushing General Grant on the Presidential course, upon his military reputation alone. In response, it is reported, General Grant has written a long letter accepting the proposition, and he is therefore fairly in the field, irrespective of party nomination. In his reply to Stewart & Co., General Grant has not a word to say about politics.

Mount Vesuvius is now in a state of grand eruption. Not only is the old volcano in violent action and flames issuing from the old crater, but new openings have been formed. A perfect river of molten lava is seen to flow from the mountain running in a westerly direction and threatening to destroy the town of Cereals. A perfect panic exists among the inhabitants of all the villages situated at the foot of the mountains.

Exaggerated accounts by telegraph from Richmond, relative to the expected rising of the negroes of the South-side counties of the State, have no better foundation than the fact that a few days since a squad of soldiers were sent to Halifax, because a disturbance at Christmas was feared. The negro population throughout the State is quiet, as far as an armed insurrection is concerned, as they have been since emancipation.

The employees of the different manufacturers of Norristown, Pa., appear to be fortunate, as it is said to be the only place in the Union in which the factories are running on full time.

The talk of establishing a vigilance committee in Harrisburg to protect unoffending citizens grows louder and louder every day.

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The Scarcity of Currency.

No practical man, who is largely engaged in business transactions, can intelligently maintain that there is, at present, a sufficiency of currency in any part of this country. In our own city it has been at no time abundant during the past two years, while at times its scarcity has been most annoying. Even in New York, the great commercial centre, the point in fact of issue and redemption, it is by no means too plentiful, while in many portions of the interior, particularly in the Northwest, and especially in the South, its almost total absence is extremely prejudicial to the interests of the community and of the Government itself. Its scarcity hampers trade, hinders cultivation and prevents the development of private wealth and the increase of taxable property. We read constantly in the papers of forced sales, made in the South where most ruinous sacrifices are constantly submitted to. In the Tribune under date of December 24, we read of a fine residence and ten acres of land which sold in Georgia for \$300 and of 450 acres of prime land which fetched only \$50. These are stated to have been *bond fide* sales. The correspondent giving the information says "It was Court day" and a large concourse of people were present. The most of them were large property owners, but really had not \$5 in their pockets and in consequence would not bid, as the "sales were for cash." Paper money may not actually be a value but it is certainly a medium, of exchange, and the United States legal tender note is the currency in which the exchanges of the country are at present made. A man may barter his horse or his ox or his gold watch or his diamond pin all of which have value; but he cannot buy with them at public sales, where property is sold for cash payable in the established representative of value. If it is an arbitrary measure on the part of a Government to make paper the currency of a country, it is a much more arbitrary act to make forced sales payable in this currency and yet not to provide a sufficiency of it to enable the community to effect purchases or to negotiate its ordinary transactions.

But the want of currency, which is so evident to most people, and the unfortunate business experiences of the past year are not only the proofs of a deficiency of circulation. The truth is that we have not to-day in this country as much currency per capita as there is in England or in France. People are too much misled by the loose statements which are constantly being made of the volume of currency in circulation in this country before the war. Yet, a fair comparison made between it and the circulation to which it is now proposed to restrict the country, will prove a great benefit. More anon.

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The Presidential Election.

The currency of to-day consists of U.S. notes \$357,000,000, and National Bank notes \$293,000,000. We take no account of the small note circulation, as that is about equal to the average currency cash balance retained by the Treasury Department, nor of the legal tender compound interest notes, as they are being rapidly withdrawn from circulation. We are to have, therefore, a total circulation of \$650,000,000. If we deduct from this the amount held by the banks as a reserve fund, which was in October, 1862, \$205,640, and which we will estimate at \$200,000,000, we will have \$450,000,000 as the total proposed available active circulation.

The bank circulation for the years 1858, 1859, 1860 averaged over \$200,000,000. The specie in bank averaged over \$62,000,000. It was estimated that the amount of specie afloat was about equal to the bank note circulation. If we place it, however, only at \$150,000,000, we still have a total circulation of \$442,000,000. Deducting from these the reserve of specie held by the banks of \$62,000,000, and we have left an active actual circulation of \$350,000,000 on a specie basis, which, at a premium of 35 per cent, is equal to \$472,500,000 in paper currency. So that without taking into calculation the growing population of this country, its increasing business, and what is really more important, the increased requirements for currency rendered necessary by the abolition of the credit system, we find that the circulation to which it is proposed to restrict us is actually less, calculated on a gold basis, than it was before the war.

In 1858, estimating the population at 30,000,000, the per capita circulation was in specie \$11.86, equal at present to \$15.75. The proposed per capita circulation after the withdrawal of the compound interest notes, estimating the population at 35,000,000, will be \$12.86, considerably less *ceteris paribus* than that of ten years ago. Does not this show plainly that the volume of currency in the country is not sufficient for the actual wants of the community?

If others are engaged in the same business, even if they do not advertise, it becomes the more important for our dealers to do so, and if they do advertise, it is doubly important. It is, in fact, ruin not to be known as extensively as our rivals. It is the flood-tide of fortune to be the most extensively known.

Some time ago it was publicly announced that a disagreement had occurred between Senator Sumner and his wife, but a portion of the press at once contradicted the story. Last week the Home Journal settled the matter in this wise:

We have good authority for stating that the differences between Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sumner, which have caused so much unpleasant gossip and scandal, have been finally settled by a permanent separation, with the mutual consent and desire of both parties and their best friends. The direct cause of this separation is simply the certainty—discovered only too late—that there exist between the parties an incompatibility of temperament and opinion upon certain social questions, which precludes the possibility of their living happily together as man and wife.

The Maryland Legislature met at Annapolis on Wednesday last. Barnes Compton, of Charles county, was elected President of the Senate, and Augustus Gassaway Secretary. Wm. H. Stewart, of Baltimore, was elected Speaker of the House, and Milton Y. Kidd, of Cecil county, Chief Clerk. No business beyond completing the work of session has yet been transacted.

A call is in circulation in New Jersey, and is receiving thousands of signatures for the assembling of a convention at Trenton, on the 22d of January, to organize an opposition party to the Camden and Amboy Railroad monopoly.

Russia and Turkey.

The leading diplomats of Russia recently assembled at St. Petersburg by command of the Czar. It was a conference in relation to the present aspect of the Eastern question, and the proper steps necessary to be taken by Russia in order to carry out her long-cherished purposes in relation to the effects of the "sick man." Rumor declares that the ultimate result of that meeting was a determination on the part of Russia to force France and the other Great Powers to assume some well-defined policy with regard to the affairs of Turkey. Every useful commodity, and every article of comfort and luxury, had to pay a heavy contribution to the State before it reached the consumer, and the tariff exhibited a formidable load of unjust and oppressive burdens. Under the spread of more liberal ideas the taxes lived by the custom laws upon almost every article largely consumed were gradually reduced or got rid of. Through the arduous and intelligent labors of Cobden, Bright and other leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League, the principle of protection which had long ridden the British people, as it still does our own, was formally abandoned and disowned. The taxes on broadstuffs were repealed, and a great diminution was made.

Two hundred years ago the number of articles charged with taxes in Great Britain numbered 1,600. In 1787 they were reduced to 1,425 articles; in 1826 to 1,280; in 1841 to 1,062; in 1849 to 515, and in 1853 to 466. In the latter year the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gladstone, thus stated the principles that governed the tax levy:

"First, to abolish altogether the duties which are unproductive; and in the next place to abolish, as far as considerations of revenue will permit, duties on articles of manufacture, except such as are in the last stages of finished articles. In these cases we have endeavored to fix the duties in such a way that, as a general rule, they should not stand, as to any class of goods (except silks,) higher than ten per cent. on their value."

"Next; we have been desirous to lower the duties that press on foreign articles of food, which enter largely, if not into the necessities of life, at any rate into what may be called the luxuries and comforts of the mass of the people."

Still greater reductions in the number of articles taxed have taken place; and since 1860, the British tariff retains only nineteen articles subject to import duties.

Our own complicated and burdensome tariff presents a painful contrast to this simplicity, with its 3,500 articles subject to duty—or about double the number that were ever taxed in Great Britain, even in her darkest days of national exclusiveness and oppression. Yet England raises as great a revenue every year from customs as does the United States, and collects it far more cheaply and surely. Five great items produced twenty million pounds, £100,000,000, more than our whole revenue from customs (all sources) in 1865, and nearly as much as the total average receipts of the current fiscal year from imports. These great staples are sugar, tea, tobacco, wine and spirits—all, save one or two, articles of mere luxury or superfluity. Great Britain has a population about equal to our own. No nation stands more in need of a large revenue, since her national debt is greater by one-third than ours."

What is the secret of her success? Low taxes and cheap prices for all the necessities of life.

It should never be forgotten that heavily taxed articles extensively consumed by the people, enhance the cost of those articles, first, to the extent of the duty itself; second, to the extent of forty per cent premium on that duty, (as all such taxes are payable in gold,) third, to the extent of the expense, delay and inconvenience suffered by the dealer in the payment of the duty; and lastly, on account of the discouraging effect of such duties upon the importation of the article. How many times have we been told, in the last three years, as a reason why the merchants no longer keep certain articles on hand—"we can't afford to import that article any more, the duty is so high." And how often are we reminded, when hesitating over the triflingly dear prices asked for imported goods, that the article has paid forty or fifty per cent gold duty and cannot possibly be afforded any less? This enhancement of the cost limits the consumption of articles which are of primary necessity to the welfare of the people, and so far it is a great injury. It is the bane of the duty of the State to interfere so as to diminish materially the comforts of the community. Yet we find our Government, through the unwise and mistaken counsels of men who appear not to comprehend the first principle of political economy, standing in the unparallel relation of an obstructionist to the commerce of the people. By a system ofordinately high duties, never paralleled before in this country, we are cut off from using our own resources to the best advantage, while the Government, instead of reaping the advantage which the people lose, is actually cheating itself out of millions by pursuing a more reasonable system of taxation, in the articles subjected to customs' duties.

It appears from the last report of the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue, that the present average tax laid by the custom laws upon imported goods, is forty-eight per cent. on the dutiable value of the goods. This is, every dollar of it, paid in gold. The highest average duty ever levied in this country before was forty-one per cent., and that only for a brief space of three years. The actual duty paid, for a series of years prior to 1861, averaged only twenty and one-half per cent. on the dutiable value of the goods imported. Is it wise to keep up, so long after the necessities of the war are over, this monstrous advance of taxation, amounting, as we have seen, to more than one hundred per cent?—Cincinnati Commercial.

The steamship "Francis," Captain Harrington, which left Baltimore for Wilmington, N. C., on Saturday last, went ashore on Tuesday morning, some eight miles north of New Inlet.

The Middletown Transcript

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,
BY HENRY & WM. H. VANDERFORD.

TERMS.—\$2.00 per annum, payable in advance.
Single copies five cents.

ADVERTISING RATES.—One square of ten lines, \$1 for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. One square one year \$10; six months \$8. For a quarter of a column three months \$8. A half column \$12; one square with the privilege of four changes \$18; for half a column \$20. Fractions of a square to be counted as a square. When the number of insertions is not marked, advertisements will be continued until forbid, and charged accordingly. Obituaries published at advertising rates; Marriages and Deaths inserted free. Yearly advertisements must confine their advertisements to their own business.

ALL letters should be addressed to THE MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT, Middletown, Del.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

The Forest Presbyterian Church.—The congregation of the Forest Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Del., have completed the repairs of the Church, and it was reopened at their regular communion season, the second Sabbath of Dec. when six persons were added to the membership.

The walls and ceiling have been handsomely painted, the pews grained, and the Church repainted, giving it a neat and handsome appearance, at a cost of about \$900.

The young men of the Church have had assigned them a tasteful room on the first floor, where they hold their weekly prayer meetings.

During the past year we understand that forty-two persons have been added to the number of members, and the Church appears to be working with commendable zeal for the salvation of those around them. We learn, also, that the congregation contemplate building an addition to their parsonage in the Spring, showing that they are not unmindful of the comfort of their pastor, who labors with them so earnestly.

When the proposed improvements are completed, with the addition of a tower and bell, the congregation will certainly have a beautiful and comfortable house of worship, an ornament to the town, and a monument to their liberality.

From the report of the operations of the Church, for 1867, we glean the following:

Pastor's salary \$1000; donations to pastor in cash, \$150; Sabbath morning collections \$176.14; Special collection in January, \$226.10; Special coll. in May, \$255.10;

Proceeds of tableaux and refreshments, \$210; Subscription for repairs and improvement of Church and Parsonage, \$1125; total \$3042.34. Collections—for Home Missions, \$12; Tract Cause, \$7.30; Ladies' Mission, \$30; Willing Helpers, \$20; Foreign Missions \$25; Sab. School \$13.25; Sessional Fund, \$31.32; In the Sabbath School \$6.9; total \$199.96.

Sabbath School.—Officers: Superintendent, Assistant, Librarian, Treasurer and Secretary, male teachers 6, female teachers 8, total 17; Scholars, male 52, female 63, total 115; Female Bible Class, held at the parsonage as an adjunct of the school, teacher 1, scholars 10. Amount raised in school for various purposes, \$74.34. Religious services during the year—Sermons, including Lectures, 141; prayer meetings 78; funerals 7; pastoral visits 212; baptisms, infant 13, adult 4, total 17. Membership.—Members at the beginning of the year, 76; added on examination 35; added on certificate 7; dismissed 2; net gain 40; total 116.

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The audience room was handsomely decorated, a large flag was suspended from gallery to gallery, which when removed, revealed a tastefully decorated Christmas tree, reaching from the floor to the ceiling fifteen or twenty feet high. This tree was beautifully illuminated, and seemed to yield, from its pendant branches, "all manner of fruit." Nor was it "forbidden," for the little ones were called up in regular order, and "did eat." This ceremony was preceded by brief but appropriate addresses from the pastor, Rev. Wm. Uri, and Mr. Lingo, the Superintendent. The entire audience were then invited into the basement, where a bountiful table was spread, and loaded with cakes, comfits, and other good cheer, and all partook with a hearty good will, and an interchange of those kindly sentiments and feelings which the interesting occasion was so well calculated to inspire.

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The Sunday School of St. Ann's Church held their Christmas anniversary in the Sunday School room in Middletown, on Christmas evening. Carols were sung sweetly by the scholars, and a beautifully lighted Christmas Tree added to their enjoyment. Also, Monday 23d, St. Ann's congregation visited the Rectory, and furnished the Rector and his wife with a vast number of the good things of life, including turkeys, chickens, &c. and presented the Rector, Rev. J. W. Brown, with a purse containing \$115. Mr. Brown has resigned the Rectorship of St. Ann's, to the general regret of his parishioners, and removes shortly to Philadelphia, where he will assume the Rectorship of Trinity Church, and which opens up before him, perhaps, a wider sphere of usefulness. The Rectorship of St. Ann's is for the present vacant.

Owing to the cold snap which took place early in December, and so severe as to close navigation on all the creeks and inlets to the landings upon the Chesapeake, and Delaware Bays for several miles below the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, the grain market at this place has been quite brisk, since the new crop of corn began to come in; more than 40,000 bushels of corn and 10,000 bushels of wheat having been delivered during the last month, besides potatoes, oats, and other grain and seeds usually sent from this station by railroad. And this large amount of produce is freighted from Middletown, notwithstanding much grain is shipped both at Townsend and Mount Pleasant, the one four miles south, the other four miles north of this town. We understand the trade from all the stations on the road has been equally brisk.

The Newbern, North Carolina, *Herald* of the 4th inst., says: "We are credibly informed that in our city at least three persons have died from starvation within the last few days."

General Canby has issued an order stating that the convention has been carried in South Carolina, and directing it to meet at Charleston on the 14th of January.

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At Spring Dale, the residence of Thomas W. Anderson, near Frederica City, Md., on Tuesday, by Rev. Father Surin, G. C. Mortarino, Esq., Upper Marlborough, Md., and Miss Eliza C. Turner, daughter of the late Thomas Turner, formerly of Georgetown, D. C.

DIED

On the 20th ultimo, at the residence of Mr. D. Stewart, near Sassafras, Augustine Biddle, aged 22 years.

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MIDDLETOWN MARKET.

Wheat, prime red.....\$2.50
Corn.....1.05
Oats, good.....0.50

WILMINGTON.

Wheat red.....\$3.50@2.60
Western white.....3.20
Oats, old yellow.....1.40@1.42
" new.....1.10@1.22
Oats.....75@.80

PHILADELPHIA CATTLE MARKETS.—The receipts of beef cattle were large this week, reaching about 1,500 head; the market was more active and prices were higher, except Pennsylvania and Western cattle, which sold at \$1.50@1.60 lb gross, fair to good do., at \$1.60@1.70, and common at \$1.60@1.70 lb gross, as to quality.

The Delaware and Chesapeake Canal

which has been blocked up with ice for some time past, is now open, and the Leesburg lines have resumed their regular trips to Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York.

Three hundred cords of wood, belonging to Mr. Gray, stored in the Railroad Company's woodshed, at Harrington, were destroyed by fire on Christmas.

A large coasting schooner, laden with coal, was cut through by the ice, and sank, at the Delaware City wharf last week.

A Rarity.—Crabs were served at the table of L. R. Davis' Middletown Hotel, on the 2d inst.

The ladies of Delaware City have been playing croquet on the ice, and declare it is "perfectly splendid."

In Circleville, Ohio, a country woman brought some butter to a storekeeper to exchange for coffee. The clerk weighed the butter and dashed it into the bin, when, lo, it burst open, and rolled a big stone. The clerk quietly, and without saying anything to the woman, deposited the stone in the coffee and rolled it up in the paper. She paid for it and departed, and at last advised her not returned to rectify the irregularity.

The Pittsburgh *Daily Post* has taken the lead in Pennsylvania in urging the nomination of the Hon. George H. Pendleton for the next Presidency. The Post supports his claims to the Democratic nomination on the grounds that he advocates paying the national debt in greenbacks, and is in favor of equal taxation.

Cecil County Court commences on the second Monday in January. In drawing the jury the Democrat says:—"By one of those strange results of chance incident to the new law, not one name was drawn from the first district."

On Wednesday last about twenty-three millions of the public debt matured. This money will go to pay the semi-annual instalment of interest on the five twenty bonds; the principal and interest on portion of the bonds of 1867-'8, and the semi-annual interest on the bonds 1881. About forty millions of dollars per annum are required to pay interest on the five-twenty-five millions of which is paid on the first of May and first of November, and the remaining fifteen millions on the first of January and the first of July. Over seven millions will be required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds of 1867 and 1868, falling due on the first, and over seven millions will be required to pay the interest on the bonds of 1881. This will throw about twenty-three millions of dollars in coin upon the market after the 1st inst. The amount of gold now in the Treasury is a little over eighty millions.

The War Department, by direction of the President, has issued an order relieving General Pope from the command of the Third Military District, and General Ord from the command of the Fourth Military District. General Mead is appointed to succeed Pope, and General McDowell to succeed Ord. Gen. Ord is to succeed McDowell in California. General Wagner Swayne, of the Freedmen's Bureau is also relieved, and ordered to his regiment at Nashville.

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Bradley, the negro lawyer from Boston, who emigrated to Savannah and was chosen a member of the Radical State Convention of Georgia, was tried in the Mayor's Court at Savannah, convicted of riotous and disorderly conduct and sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars, or suffer ninety days' imprisonment, with an additional ten days for gross contempt of court. There was much excitement among the negroes in Savannah.

All the business portions of Indiana, Texas, were destroyed by fire on the 3d instant. The Custom House and fifty other buildings were burned. The loss is estimated at thirty thousand dollars. The fire is attributed to incendiarism.

The various steamship lines plying between New York and European ports, of which there are nine, transported during the past year 222,034 passengers, 1,018,277 tons of cargo and \$46,135,734 in specie.

ILL.—Alexander H. Stevens, of Georgia, writes from Philadelphia that his physical condition is very feeble and that he is hardly able at times to sit up in bed. He is expected here this week.—*Washington Star.*

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